

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TOKYO 02541 160144Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----033308 160148Z /72  
O 160130Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5311

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 2541

EXDIS

EA FOR HOLBROOKE AND PLATT; WHITE HOUSE FOR ARMACOST

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2  
TAGS: OVIP (FUKUDA, TAKEO), JA  
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA'S VISIT TO U.S.

1. AT SMALL FAMILY DINNER FOR AMBASSADOR AND MRS. MANSFIELD FEBRUARY 15, OWADA TOLD ME PRIVATELY THAT HE BELIEVED U.S. SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THERE IS DOMESTIC POLITICAL DIMENSION TO TIMING OF PRIME MINISTER'S PROJECTED TRIP TO U.S. IF HE GOES AS ORIGINALLY SUGGESTED DURING APRIL 30 "GOLDEN WEEK" HOLIDAY, DIET WILL BE IN RECESS. ON HIS RETURN, HE WOULD STILL HAVE OPTION OF DISSOLVING THE DIET AND CALLING GENERAL ELECTIONS FOR MAY OR JUNE. THIS IS A POLITICAL WEAPON HE MAY OR MAY NOT USE (BEST GUESSING HERE IS THAT HE WILL NOT), BUT IF HE DEFERS HIS TRIP UNTIL JUNE THE OPTION IS ESSENTIALLY TAKEN AWAY FROM HIM. HE COULD NOT DISSOLVE THE DIET AND THEN LEAVE THE COUNTRY FOR WASHINGTON SUMMIT, UN SPECIAL SESSION AND BONN ECONOMIC SUMMIT.

2. OWADA STRESSED THAT HE WAS "NOT AUTHORIZED" TO MAKE THESE COMMENTS AND ADDED THAT HE WAS SURE PRIME MINISTER HIMSELF WOULD FULLY UNDERSTAND IF WEEK OF  
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APRIL 30 WERE INCONVENIENT FOR US.

3. UNSOURCED ARTICLES HAVE APPEARED IN LOCAL PRESS IN LAST COUPLE OF DAYS MAKING SIMILAR ANALYSIS. WE UNDERSTAND THE JAPANESE EMBASSY IS STILL NEGOTIATING DATES FOR VISIT AND ARE LIMITING OUR COMMENT BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE TO STATEMENT THAT PRESIDENT EAGERLY

LOOKING FORWARD TO VISIT, THAT VARIOUS TIMEFRAMES  
UNDER CONSIDERATION, AND THAT ALL IS BEING WORKED OUT  
THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT  
THE SOONER WE CAN ARRIVE ON A DATE, THE BETTER.  
WITH LOCAL PRESS HARD PRESSED TO FIND MUCH NEWS, THEY  
WILL BE HAPPY TO SPECULATE THAT THERE IS MISUNDERSTANDING  
OR CONFRONTATION TO BE INFERRED FROM OUR FAILURE TO  
SETTLE ON A DATE.  
MANSFIELD

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978TOKYO02541  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X2  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Subject:** PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA'S VISIT TO U.S.  
**TAGS:** OVIP, JA, (FUKUDA, TAKEO)  
**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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20 Mar 2014  
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